REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated February 26, 2008, and completion of the personal interview of April 15, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. Examiner's withdrawal of previous rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 16-18 are currently pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 to Owa et al. (*hereinafter*, "Owa") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0052995 to Idehara (*hereinafter*, "Idehara"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

The subject application is directed to a system and method for optimized routing of printing. A print job is commenced to a print port associated with a client machine and print job data is queued. A prompt is issued to an associated user for print optimization authority and the print job data is communication to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom. Status data is received from each of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith. A print optimization instruction is received from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing as well as delay criteria data corresponding to an acceptable delay period associated with commencement of the print job. The status data is tested data against selected test criteria and received delay criteria data to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing. The print job data is selectively redirected from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with a print optimization instruction and an output of the testing, wherein the output of the testing is indicative that the primary designated associated printer device exceeds the user-specified delay criteria.

Owa is directed to a system for selection of an optimum printer for processing of a print job. The Examiner noted that Owa failed to teach receiving delay criteria corresponding to an

associated delay period associated with commencement of a print job, and relies on the additional teachings of Idehara to address this deficiency. Idehara is directed to a system wherein a delay period is shown to a user, and allows the user to specify an alternative device in that delay period is deemed unacceptable to the user. The subject application teaches a system that allows a user to specify, in advance, when a delay period is unacceptable so as to allow for automatic redirection to an alternative device when such delay period is achieved after job submission. Thus, the user specifies the alternative print parameters in advance of submission, and need not be bothered to make decisions post-submission.

Amendment to each of independent claims 1 and 10 had been made to render more clearly the patentable distinctions of all claims over the art of record in connection with the discussions of the interview and as noted above.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00020.

Date: 10/8/08

Respectfully submitted,

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